UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
Friday, 17 November 2023
8:30 am via zoom
Minutes

Attendees: **Eric Berlin (minutes), Jon Berndt Olsen, Steven D. Brewer, David Hoagland, Neal Katz, Anthony Paik, Alison Messier Michelle Trim, Ruth-Ellen Verock**

Approved minutes for 10/13/23

Agenda items for December 14, 2023 meeting

- Search and Evaluation Procedures - Provost has accepted Rules changes to the language. Committee reviewed language as presented by the Secretary. Approved to include for first reading at December meeting. Side conversation brought up issues with drawing diverse faculty into excess service and administrative roles taking them from the faculty. This to be added to rules- admin agenda in future.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Political Statements - reflecting on Senate Doc 20-014 - Secretary presented charge to ad hoc committee on political statements. Rules will adjust language to present to Rules-Admin with plan for a vote to include on December 14, 2023 meeting.
- Deferred maintenance presentation by administration. Discussion of issues of equity and privacy as affects faculty and librarian work. Possible engagement of CPPC on these issues.

Discussion items

- Nominations were compiled and approved for Nominations Committee, CPARC and OMBUDS search committee.
- Nominations were discussed and approved for Strategic Planning steering committee and subcommittees
- Medical excuses - issues with absent students claiming to be sick. The Academic Regulations says faculty can request documentation, but guidance from administration says UHS will not provide documentation. This issue added to Rules-Admin agenda.
- Discussion of Ad-Hoc Committee for FS Secretary. Current secretary is interested in serving an additional term. Ad-Hoc Committee has traditionally been a subset of Rules Committee. Important to still allow for additional nominations.

- Discussed a slight revision to bylaws language to create consistency about membership criterion on FS Councils / Committees. Secretary will bring language for next meeting.

Proposed agenda items for Rules-Admin

- Return to traditional Rules-Admin time
- Political Statements AdHoc Committee charge: For discussion and subsequent Rules vote to include on December Senate meeting.
- DEI initiatives and requirements drawing diverse faculty into excess service and administrative roles taking them from the faculty. Discuss impact.
- Medical Excuses - tension between Academic Regulations and administration guidance saying UHS doesn’t provide medical excuses.

Deferred

- Provost request: general education requirements
- Assessment and budget-related issues
- Allocation of proposed co-list policy